

Epiphany 7

February 23, 2025

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany (Year C)

The psalmist reminded Israel that the Lord does not deal with us according to the sin we commit, rather He deals with us through lovingkindness. Joseph met his jealous brothers with forgiveness and their family was restored to its former wholeness. Likewise, Jesus taught his followers to act with mercy and love toward all those who persecuted them; on Calvary he put those words into action for all to see.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Genesis 45:3-15

I Am Joseph!

As Joseph's brothers came face to face with him in Egypt, they were startled to find out he was still alive. Joseph assured them that God sent him to Pharaoh's household in order to preserve Jacob's line on earth. Through their younger brother, God provided for them. The brothers embraced and wept together.

Psalm 103:1-13

The Lord is Merciful

The psalmist gratefully proclaimed the goodness of the Lord who treats us with compassion and care, healing our infirmities and providing us with good things. He does not regard us according to our sin, but instead out of his great love for us.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42

Christ the Firstfruits

Paul explained that through Adam came death, but through Jesus comes life. For those who belong to Christ through faith, when the end comes, we will be delivered into the heavenly kingdom of God. Christ will first destroy every evil, then the last enemy to be destroyed will be death. What is raised to new life is imperishable.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 6:27-38

Love Your Enemies

Jesus makes it sound so easy: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, care for those who persecute and abuse you. Not only did he preach these words, he lived them out fully. It's easy to love those who are good to you, he said, but the benefit comes when we extend kindness to the unkind, love to the unloving, forgiveness to the trespasser. "Give and it will be given to you," is Jesus' promise.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: Green
- Use the Kyrie OR Hymn of Praise.
- Use the Apostles' Creed in Ordinary Time.
- As we near the end of the Season of Epiphany, ponder what "epiphanies" you've had in the past weeks. How has Christ revealed his love to you? How have you been blessed by the Light of the World? How are you different because of Christ's revealing light?
- In what ways did Jesus practice what he preached when it came to loving those who hated him? How might we not take slights and insults personally and remember what Jesus endured?

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God	---	783	712	---	---	---
Blessed Be the Tie that Binds	370	---	649	656	48	48
What a Friend We Have in Jesus	439	---	770	742	223	223
Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing	559	---	528	886	30	30
Today Your Mercy Calls Us	304	---	915	---	---	web
Jesus, the Very Thought of You	316	---	---	---	---	web
We Give Thee But Thine Own	510	---	781	686	42	42
When Peace Like a River	346	---	763	785	224	224
Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow	565	---	805	884	49	49
What Feast of Love	---	701	---	487	---	---

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW=Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV=With One Voice, ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB=The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC=The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:

His Mercy is More
(CCLI# 7065053)
Enemy
(CCLI# 7002443)
Forgiven
(CCLI# 7068806)
Defender
(CCLI #7081764)
This is Amazing Grace
(CCLI# 6333821)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.